



Chris Dobbing and Ken Hazell each holding a black glass sealed bottle.

collector on island is a fellow nicknamed RAM. Ralph Anthony Manning Edghill has been diving since he was 14, and has amast a collection of bottles that rivals few other bottle divers I know. Having traveled throughout the Caribbean for many years as a musician, he had the opportunity to even do some bottle diving with Jimmy Buffet in St. Barts. One of his favorite bottle diving grounds has been Guyana where he found "endless quantities of case gins and Dutch blown bottles". He estimates he has collected some 15,000+ bottle via diving Caribbean bottle grounds over his robing career. Presently RAM runs an early motor yacht known as the "Scotch & Soda". RAM has ask me to seek out a cobalt blue Hamilton torpedo from ABGC readers to help complete his collection. He states that "that per-

son shall be entitled to a weeks bottle dive vacation for two aboard his boat". RAM can be reached at: scotchnsoda@sunbeach.net.

Other bottle divers such as Ken Hazell who operates Hazell's Waterworld as well as English diver friend Chris Dobbings have been diving these waters for years and have some fantastic finds, including several sealed porters, mallets, and onions. Not to mention Chris and his pride and joy ballermine jug.

When asked what their secret is when bottle hunting Chris acknowledged, "you have to look for odd shapes", "Things that look out of place". "See that encrusted sealed ladies



leg...at first glance its neck looked like a tube sponge, but it just didn't look right". So, I guess you look closely at tube sponges now? "You better believe it"!

Ken, uses his "common bottle" as fence line markers. A few of these bottles I picked up were blown black glass cylinders. Well I guess when you got a lot of bottles you have to put them someplace.

One of the great things about visiting Barbados is the welcome hospitality that exists toward bottle collectors. We had the opportunity to stay at a beautiful property directly across the street from Carlisle Bay and 200 steps from Haroon's Dive shop. The Island Inn Hotel is in itself a story for wayward bottle divers. This historical hotel was once a rum storage facility for the British



Navy. Now each room has been uniquely built amongst the early English brick walled facility. It is highly recommended for those that want to do a package price including meals and diving, and even open bar, check out this uniquely convenient hotel. Information is available by emailing: quaint@caribsurf.com

As a bottle collectors potential travel destination there are various secondary points of interest. Barbados is 'also known as the wreck divers capital of the Caribbean. The wreck of the Stravonikita a 365' freighter or the "three in one wreck dive" in Carlisle Bay are not to be missed wreck dives when visiting this island. Also, there are great eco-adventure trips inland such as Welchmans Hall Gully, the free ranging animal reserve, Harrison Caves, and many other interesting sites. Whatever your interest might be Barbados has it...plus I promise...you will return with some great bottles!!!!



Part of the Island Inn Hotel, the headquarters for our diving trip.

